

# Your Security

## Secure Your Car

An experienced criminal can break into your vehicle in a matter of seconds. Once inside, he can steal your valuables, drive away or wait inside to assault you.

That's why car security is important. Not only does it protect your property, but it can protect your life.

### Follow these tips to prevent car break-ins:

- Park in a well-lighted, busy area. Choose patrolled parking lots whenever possible.
- Close all windows. Lock the vehicle, and take the key with you.
- Don't leave a spare key under the body of the vehicle, in the carpet or on the sun visor. Thieves know about these common hiding places.
- Remove anything attracting attention, even coins, sunglasses or shopping bags. Either take them with you or put them out of sight in the glove compartment or trunk.
- Don't leave valuables such as credit cards in a vehicle.
- Don't leave registration and insurance papers in your vehicle. A thief breaking in can get your home address and burglarize your house knowing you are not at home.

- Don't leave luggage or sports equipment on outside racks on an unattended vehicle.

- Park with the wheels turned toward the curb. Put the emergency brake on. This can make it more difficult for the vehicle to be towed away.

### An anti-theft device can stop an amateur and slow down a professional. Here are some possibilities:

- Car alarms attract attention if someone tampers with the vehicle. A window sticker warns thieves the car is protected by a security system. However, it is important to take other precautions as well, because passersby tend to ignore ordinary vehicle alarms which frequently go off accidentally.
- Use a security system which physically prevents your vehicle from being moved. One such device is a brake and steering wheel lock. It locks the steering wheel to the brake pedal, thus immobilizing the controls.
- Another locking device is a steering wheel lock. It is a steel rod locking the steering wheel, preventing it from turning.
- A different device is an ignition and steering column lock, which is a lockable steel cover encasing the steering column preventing access to the ignition. Other devices

disconnect the battery or disable the ignition.

- Tapered door locks slow down break-ins through car windows.
- Tracking devices are also available in some areas. These transmitters show the location of a vehicle if it has been stolen.
- If you etch the vehicle ID number on the car window and major parts, they can be traced more easily in case of theft. Seeing these numbers might also discourage a thief.

Have this information handy so you can make a complete report in case of vehicle theft — vehicle license number, serial number, year, make and color of vehicle and any other identifying characteristics.

Items stolen from vehicles are rarely recovered. Stolen vehicles, if found, are often seriously damaged. Many are never found because they are dismantled for parts. An unsecured vehicle can also set the stage for a serious crime such as an assault.

*Be sure to park your car in a well-lighted, patrolled area and lock it up. Take advantage of vehicle security systems for added protection.*

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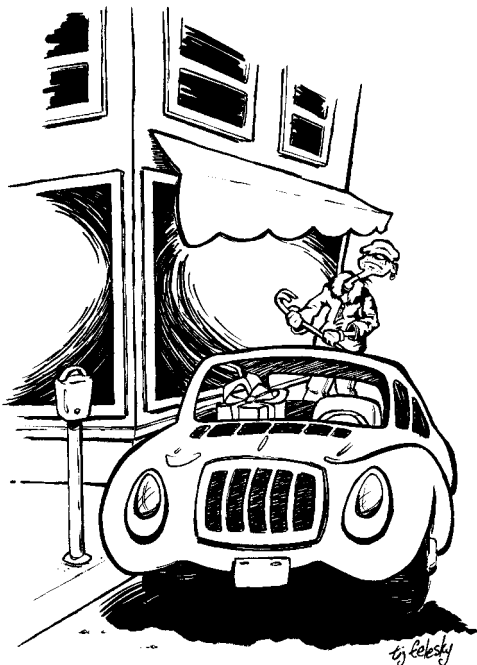
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